

means for executing a multi-cast transfer of the stream data from a sender node to a plurality of receiver nodes using the band-guaranteed cycle by
5 assigning one of plurality of channel number to the sender node and the plurality of receiver nodes; and

wherein each of the plurality of nodes includes:

20 means for monitoring a state of the signal line
and inhibiting the drive means from driving the signal
line when detecting that the signal line is driven into
the active state by another node.

7. A data transfer control method for controlling
25 a multi-cast transfer of stream data from a sender node
to a plurality of receiver nodes, the method comprising
the steps of:

5 detecting whether a reception buffer of each
receiver node overflows based on an amount of data
stored in the reception buffer; and

8. The data transfer control method according to claim 7, further comprising a step of monitoring a state of the signal line and driving the signal line into an inactive state for a predetermined time period after the signal line is driven into the active state, thereby accelerating a shift of the signal line to the inactive state.